

Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR)

Washington Department of Ecology WCC/AmeriCorps

Research and Monitoring Position

We would like to announce two AmeriCorps/WCC positions hosted at Padilla Bay starting October 2016: **Research and Monitoring Assistant** and **Education Assistant**. (This recruitment letter focuses specifically on the Research and Monitoring Assistant). The Assistant will have primary duties in their own sector (Research and Monitoring) but will occasionally share duties with the other departments (Education, Facility Operations). The position will begin in early October 2016 and extend through September 2017. The workweek will be forty hours but flexibility will be required, including periodic shifts on weekends. The positions are all Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) and AmeriCorps positions. For more information about WCC and AmeriCorps (including other available job opportunities) please visit <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/wcc/memberpositions.html#IP> for specific information on the Individual Placement (IP) positions with WCC. General information and online application can be found at www.ecy.wa.gov/wcc/. The online application opens July 15th.

The primary duties of the **Research and Monitoring Assistant** are described below.

Overview

The Research and Monitoring Assistant will gain a broad range of experience in field work and laboratory analyses related to estuarine ecology and marine science and also develop an independent research project to pursue as part of the position duties. In this regard, the position is a great opportunity for those considering future careers in resource management, ocean science, or graduate studies in marine or environmental studies

Wage and benefits:

Pay is Washington State Minimum Wage (currently \$9.47/hr) plus a basic health insurance policy. An AmeriCorps Education Award valued at \$5,775 will be awarded upon successful completion of a one-year service term. Education awards can be applied to student loans or used for future education expenses. Payments on educational loans can be deferred for the duration of these positions. Other benefits and requirements are described on the WCC/AmeriCorps website: www.ecy.wa.gov/wcc/

Research and Monitoring Assistant position:

The primary duties are to assist with a variety of estuarine and watershed monitoring and research projects at the Reserve. Work will be conducted in a range of settings, including rocky intertidal, eelgrass habitats, and open water. Activities include oceanographic sampling from research vessels, deployment and servicing of instrumentation, following laboratory methods and conducting analyses, and participating in AAUS scientific diving activities (as certification allows). Specific responsibilities include:

- assisting with data entry, statistical analyses, and graphing of selected data;
- assisting the Research Team with laboratory analyses and sample processing, including filtering and weighing samples, counting organisms, and general lab work in support of research;
- participating in open water, vessel-based research and monitoring throughout the year;
- Assisting with monitoring of water quality with field instruments, assisting with calibration and maintenance of instruments, and collecting and analyzing water samples.
- Contribute to dissemination of research to broader audiences by submissions to the Padilla Bay newsletter, giving public presentations, or working with interpretive center staff.

Independent Research Project

The Research and Monitoring Assistant will also develop and conduct their own independent research project that contributes to one or more of the research priorities of the Reserve. Current research priorities would encourage independent studies looking into blue carbon and carbon sequestration in eelgrass habitats, trends and impacts of ocean acidification, changes in water quality and oceanographic properties as a result of climate change, rocky intertidal ecology, and basic ecology related to non-native vs. native eelgrass species and the ecosystem services they provide. Ultimately the focus of the independent study will reflect the goals and interests of the WCC Research Assistant.

Qualifications:

Applicants must be between the ages of 18 and 25 (inclusive) on October 5, 2016. Returning military veterans are exempt from the age restriction. Note: Consideration will be given to applicants with experience in marine biology/ecology, research experience, and field and laboratory science skills. College graduates are eligible and encouraged to apply.

To apply:

All applicants must apply on-line to WCC at: www.ecy.wa.gov/wcc/

In addition, **to be considered for the Research and Monitoring Assistant Position at Padilla Bay positions, applicants are required to submit the following:**

- 1) cover letter indicating their interests in position;
- 2) PDF copy of completed WCC online application;
- 3) resume indicating contact information, academic background, and work experience; and
- 4) contact information for three references.

Priority consideration will be given to applications received by July 25th or those applicants who contact the Research Coordinator (Dr. Jude Apple) to discuss their interest in the position ahead of time. An on-site interview or visit to Padilla Bay prior is highly encouraged.

For additional questions or to submit application materials, please contact:

Dr. Jude Apple

Research Coordinator, Padilla Bay NERR

japple@padillabay.gov

360-428-1089

You may also send applications via postal mail to:

Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

10441 Bay View - Edison Rd.

Mount Vernon, WA 98273